

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07
TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 XMB-02 FRB-03
/118 W

-----091423Z 130835 /40

R 081450Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0830
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0462

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, XF
SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT COMMISSION MEETING

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0459

1. FORTY-FIRST MEETING OF ARAB BOYCOTT COMMISSIONERS OPENED

IN ALEXANDRIA 8 JUNE 1977. CONTRARY TO ALL PRIOR EXPECTATIONS AND INDICATIONS, OPENING SESSION WAS AT PALESTINE HOTEL, NOT AT GOE OFFICES IN BULKLEY AS PREDICTED REFTEL. HOWEVER, THOSE OFFICES WERE IN USE TODAY AND GATES TO COMPOUND OPEN FOR FIRST TIME IN YEAR OR MORE. POSSIBLY THEY ARE BEING USED AS DELEGATION OFFICES.

2. SECOND SWITCH WAS THAT ALEXANDRIA'S MINISTER-GOVERNOR ABDEL TAWAB HODEIB ADDRESSED OPENING SESSION (ALTHOUGH FEW DAYS BEFORE WE WERE ASSURED HE WOULD NOT) AND PRESS WAS ADMITTED. WE HOPE SOON HAVE SUBSTANCE OF SPEECHES OF DIRECTOR MAHGOUB AND GOVERNOR FROM LOCAL PRESS SOURCES.

3. FROM LOCAL BUSINESS SOURCE, WE HAVE SOME CONFIRMATION THAT HARDLINERS, LED BY IRAQ, ALGERIA AND SOUTH YEMEN ARE GOING TO PRESS FOR TOTAL BOYCOTT OF ALL COMPANIES IN COUNTRY "SEEKING AID ISRAEL BY LEGISLATING AGAINST BOYCOTT." A MODERATE HIMSELF, SOURCE IS A LITTLE PESSIMISTIC ON OUTCOME.

4. PRESS ON MORNING OF 8 JUNE CARRIED INFORMATION ON CONFERENCE WHICH APPEARED TO BE ALMOST "BOILER PLATE" PROVIDED BY BOYCOTT OFFICE SO SIMILAR WAS LANGUAGE IN ARABIC, ENGLISH AND FRENCH ACCOUNTS.

A. "AGENDA INCLUDES 110 ITEMS, FOREMOST BEING DISCUSSION OF NEW REGULATIONS FOR BOYCOTT AND AMENDMENT OF A NUMBER OF RULES CURRENTLY IN FORCE TO COPE WITH ISRAEL'S DESIGNS AGAINST BOYCOTT."

B. "REPORTS FROM 100 FOREIGN FIRMS MOST OF WHICH COMPLIED WITH REGULATIONS OF ARAB BOYCOTT AND ARE WILLING CARRY OUT INDUSTRIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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VENTURES IN ARAB COUNTRIES."

COMMENT: ARAB-AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE OF XEROX COMPANY TELLS US "NEITHER XEROX NOR FORD ARE ON AGENDA." WE ARE TRYING TO GET ACCESS TO A COPY.

C. CONFERENCE WILL EXAMINE STATUS OF THESE COMPANIES TO SEE IF THEY SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM BLACKLIST.

D. CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES WILL BE EXAMINED TO SEE IF THEY ARE ADEQUATE TO DETERMINE ORIGIN OF GOODS AND STATUS OF SHIPS DELIVERING.

E. CONFERENCE WILL ALSO "DEFINE THE MATERIALS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO ISRAEL'S MILITARY EFFORT."

COMMENT: THIS AGENDA ITEM COULD BE ONE RAISED BY MODERATES WHO CLAIM BOYCOTT IS ONLY DIRECTED AGAINST WAR POTENTIAL OF AID AND GOODS TO ISRAEL.

F. "AT IRAQ'S REQUEST, CONFERENCE WILL ALSO DEAL WITH ANTI-BOYCOTT LAWS AND BILLS ADOPTED IN THE UNITED STATES AND WILL DISCUSS EFFORTS EXERTED BY INTERNATIONAL ZIONISM TO CARRY OUT SIMILAR ACTIONS IN CANADA AND ENGLAND."

COMMENT: IN LATTER CONNECTION, MAHGOUB IS QUOTED AS INDICATING

CONFERENCE SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO THOSE TAKING ANTI-BOYCOTT ACTIONS,
THAT ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL " WILL TAKE NO NOTICE (I.E., NOT
BE BOUND BY) ANY FOREIGN LAWS."

5. ALTHOUGH PRESS ORIGINALLY SAID CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR
10 DAYS, LATER ESTIMATES ARE 12-14 DAYS AND ONE AMERICAN NEWSMAN
UNDERSTANDS IT WILL BE FIFTEEN DAYS. AFTER OPENING SESSION,
"SECRET SESSIONS" BEGAN. PALESTINE HOTEL IS WELL-GUARDED BY
ABOUT DOZEN REGULAR POLICE (VICE THREE OR FOUR USUALLY ON DUTY),
BUT OTHERWISE DOING BUSINESS AS USUAL.
CHASE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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